

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2010, 4:30p.m.
Cal Brand Meeting Hall**

PRESENT	ABSENT
Rhea Baker-Ipek	Akua B. Agyei
Trena Carter	John Stroh
Tony McClendon	Ian Kohen
Greg Lewis	
Gil Palmer	
Rosalind Pegram	
Shiva Rallapalli	
John Roberts	

Meeting Called to Order

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Cooper Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith and Secretary Lula Young.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Commissioner Roberts called roll and requested any corrections or amendments to the March 2010 minutes.

Commissioner Carter moved to accept the March 2010 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Rallapalli seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Carter reported the Donations Account balance as \$6,729.64 after \$415.15 in expenses and \$300.00 in ticket deposits.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Commissioner Palmer welcomed new Commissioner, Rhea Baker-Ipek and provided an opportunity for all Commissioners to introduce themselves to her.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley reported that a number of mediations were successfully completed. She informed Commissioners that the most recent mediation was a voluntary mediation process under current Rules and Regulations. She went on to advise that the mediated agreement included training for the respondent's staff and an apology to the complainant.

The complainant was so pleased with the mediation's outcome that afterwards, she sought out the Director to thank her for a presentation she had previously made to the Gay/Straight Alliance (now Pride Alliance Columbus), without which she, the complainant, may not have filed nor pursued her complaint.

OPEN FORUM:

Commissioner Roberts provided additional information from his participation in the Welcoming Community Colleges Initiative conference and advised that he would share the minutes with the Commission. He informed Commissioners that all attendees including presidents and deans of various community colleges were all members of the LGBT community and together, formulated proposals for grant applications. Discussion ensued.

Chairperson Palmer advised that he would like to share the developed proposals from the conference with IUPUC's Diversity Council. Commissioner Roberts agreed to forward the information.

The Chairperson then announced that the early childhood initiative has prepared programming for children ages 3 -4 in conjunction with Parent University that is preparing for their August 2010 start. He advised that the Early Childhood initiative's goal is to help pre-kindergarten youth be better prepared for educational pursuits.

Deputy Director Smith announced the first annual meeting of C.A.M.E.O. will be held on May 26th with Tim Solso as the keynote speaker. She advised that the program was scheduled to begin at 6:00p.m. after the informal reception.

Director Tinsley reported the 'Journeys in Film' series, the collaborative venture between the International School of Columbus and C.A.M.E.O. has concluded and that planning has started for future activities with collaboration of events.

Chairperson Palmer announced that Kenan Al-Husseini will be presenting, "Talking is the Key to Understanding" to the Diversity Council at IUPUC. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Pegram advised that she had attended the William R. Laws Peacemaking Lecture Series presentation by Father Groody at First Presbyterian Church. She appreciated the graphics and found the presentation to be very rich in communicating a global perspective.

ACTION ITEM – RESOLUTION ON HATE INCIDENTS:

Director Tinsley reported that multiple hate-related vandalism incidents had occurred within the community such as swastikas being painted on street signs, a vehicle owned by an Indian resident and on Calvary Community Church. She shared the concerns voiced by pastors Rob Craig and Charles Sims as it is their belief that occurrences of this type of vandalism is increasing and becoming more violent. The Pastors also voiced concerns about local agency responses to the incidents.

Director Tinsley asked if there was interest by the Commissioners to form a Hate Crime Incident Task Force. She suggested that two or three Commissioners could utilize material created by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) to prepare a plan to handle future hate crime incident reporting with cultural sensitivity. Discussion ensued.

Commissioners Baker-Ipek, Rallapalli and Lewis volunteered to form the Hate Crimes Ad hoc Committee and agreed to meet and review resource material before the next full Commission meeting.

LIAISON UPDATE – INTERFAITH FORUM of COLUMBUS (IFC):

Commissioner Lewis announced that the IFC's bi-annual Sacred Celebration will be held on May 16th at 4pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church. He advised that Yassir Bhatti of the Pakistani Association, had been asked to lead the interactive demonstration and share the tenets of faith.

LIAISON UPDATE – IMMIGRATION ISSUES GROUP (IIG):

Commissioner Pegram advised that Laura Hurt conducted a presentation on Health Issues. She also received literature regarding health legislation concerning undocumented immigrants having limited or no access to health care.

Commissioner Pegram also reported that the Ivy Tech Agriculture department provided seeds to Garden City residents for their community garden.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Carter moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Lewis seconded. Meeting adjourned.